

English Language Arts teacher. She plans, develops, and compiles comprehensive language-based skills for all students while delivering quality instruction to impact their overall developmental success. She is also a member of the School Leadership Team, the School Improvement Committee, the PBIS Committee, the Chair of the ELA Department, and the Upper Elementary Reading Club.

Ms. Bradley is a native of Jefferson County and graduated from Jefferson County High School with the class of 2009. She is the mother of a son, Omarian, who is currently an 8th grade student.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Erica Bradley for her passion and dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District.

# INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COMMON-WEALTH ONLY TRANSITIONAL WORKERS

## HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, three years of pandemic have taken a toll on businesses nationwide and, especially, in isolated, one-industry economies like that of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Policies that made sense before a pandemic shut down the tourism industry in the islands I represent are now actually making recovery more difficult.

So, today, I am introducing legislation to ease the return to normalcy by recognizing the impact of the pandemic.

My bill will delay for three years the effective date of a provision of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115–218, that is making it more expensive and more difficult for businesses in my district to recover.

This is the so-called “touchback” provision of that law that requires employers to send certain foreign workers back to their home country at least every three years. Doing so has, of course, proven problematic during the pandemic, when flights were interrupted and increasingly costly. In some cases, home country ingress provisions made it difficult for workers to return.

In the meantime, the purpose of the touchback requirement has been fulfilled. It was intended to reduce reliance on foreign workers and encourage investment in U.S. workers. And that is precisely what has occurred, even without implementation of touchback.

During the pandemic the number of U.S. workers employed in the Marianas has held steady near 13,000, according to the most recent report from the Governor required by the U.S. Workforce Act. The number of foreign workers, according to the Governor, has fallen from about 8,000 to 6,000.

Even without the requirement that certain foreign workers return home at least every three years, Marianas businesses appear to have shifted to a relatively greater reliance on U.S. workers. This is precisely the intent of Public Law 115–218.

Rather than striking the requirement from the law altogether, however—as considering this shift touchback may now seem unnecessary—my bill takes a more conservative approach to delay the effective date for three years, matching the duration of the pandemic.

The bill also makes clear the intent of the law’s authors—Chair Rob Bishop and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA of the House Natural Resources Committee, Chair LISA MURKOWSKI of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and me—with respect to the timing of touchback, as explained in our letter of July 22, 2020, to Samantha Deshommes, Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Ultimately, I respect the bipartisan agreement on a reasonable immigration policy unique to the Marianas that is embodied in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. Circumstances now warrant fine-tuning the touchback provision. Ultimately, however, I want to see that bipartisan policy through to its conclusion in 2030.

## HONORING A.W. HOLT

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, A.W. Holt.

A graduate from Brinkly High School in Jackson, MS, where he participated in basketball, baseball, and track. A.W., who was also known as the “Awesome Wonder”, attended Jackson State University (JSU) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.

Holt played for the JSU Basketball Tigers and enjoyed a winning season each year while he was there. During his freshman year, his team won the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Tournament. The following season the Tigers won the Georgia Invitational Tournament, and he was selected as one of the tournament’s Most Valuable Players. That year the team also won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championship. In 1968, Holt was selected to the ALL-SWAC 1st Team.

During his junior and senior years, Holt served as Captain of the JSU basketball team, and was pitcher for the JSU baseball team in 1968. The team won a SWAC Championship. In 1969, he received All-American Honorable Mention and appeared in the 1969 edition of Outstanding College Athletes of America.

His success did not stop at the collegiate level. In May 1969, the Dallas Chaparrals drafted Holt in the 3rd round of the American Basketball Association (ABA). He also played for the Chicago Bulls in the National Basketball Association (NBA). During his career, he played for the Scranton Minors, the Northwest Travelers, and the New Orleans Jazz.

Upon his return to Jackson, MS, Holt was employed at JSU as Assistance Director and then Director of the New Men’s Dormitory. He participated in the Jackson City Basketball and Baseball Leagues as a player and an umpire.

In 2004, he retired from the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department after 30 years of service.

While there, he was named one of the three 1st Black sergeants and later 1st Black lieutenant at the Hinds County Sheriff’s Department.

Holt and his wife Margaret have 2 sons, Christopher and Alvin. Alvin is deceased.

A.W. Holt was inducted in the Jackson State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A.W. Holt for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

## RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY’S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, FRED HEARNS, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Tampa Bay historian who has served this community with great distinction for many decades. Mr. Charles “Fred” Hearn is one of the foremost historians of Tampa Bay and Florida history. And, since 2021, he has served as the first Curator of Black History for the Tampa Bay History Center (TBHC).

Mr. Hearn was born in the Bronx, NY and grew up in East Tampa, Florida, graduating in 1966 from Middleton High School, the first high school for African Americans in Hillsborough County. He later went on to further his education at the University of South Florida earning a bachelor’s degree in English/journalism and a master’s degree in African studies. Mr. Hearn also holds a master’s degree in human services from Springfield College (Distinguished Graduate Award). He is the father of four adult children, sons Charles F. (Ricky) Hearn Jr. and Marcel Charles Fred Hearn, and daughters Cassanda Franklin and Charaneka Johnson. He also has five grandchildren.

He began his career as a journalist working for the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel and then in the Office of Public Contacts for Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. In 1975, Mr. Hearn began a 32-year career with the City of Tampa and became its human rights director in 1992. He retired as director of the Department of Community Affairs in 2007.

During his tenure with the City of Tampa, Mr. Hearn worked on several major projects including leading the charge as president of the Middleton High School Alumni Association to reestablish his alma mater where a Pavilion now stands in his honor. He also worked as a consultant for the revitalization of the Perry Harvey, Sr. Park project and was a founding member of several civic organizations in the city such as the 78th Street Improvement Association, the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Urban Libraries and the Robert W. Saunders Library Foundation, Inc. Mr. Hearn also worked as a consultant for the ENCORE housing project in Tampa. He served on the Friends of the Riverwalk and on the Florida Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2014, he was awarded the Robert Saunders Award for Community Service.